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Serial Number 10/623,508

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a user application program executed in a client computer, comprising the ~~steps~~ step of:

if the user application program does not include a pointer to a file streaming readout function, replacing an existing pointer to a readout function with a substitute pointer to the file streaming readout function, wherein the file streaming readout function carries out the following steps:

receiving a file readout request for a file from the user application program;

determining whether the file is stored in the client computer;

if it is determined that the file has been stored in the client computer, forwarding data of the file to the user application program; and

if it is determined that the file has not yet been stored in the client computer, receiving some of the data of the file from a predetermined server with the file stored therein and storing the some of the data in the client computer and forwarding the received data to the user application program, the predetermined server being connected to the client computer through a network.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of receiving some of the data is performed by using data offsets of the file and the size of some of the data to be received.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of continuously executing the user application program in a state where only some of the data are received but all data of the file have not yet been received.

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4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step for receiving the data of the file from the predetermined server with the file stored therein and caching the received data in the client computer.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
identifying a second client computer with the file stored therein; and
receiving the file from the identified second client computer and transferring the received file to the user application program.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
while the file readout request is not received from the user application program, receiving data expected to be required by the user application program from a second client computer with the data stored therein and storing the received data.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein determination on the data expected to be required by the user application program is made based on data that have been required by the user application program upon previous execution of the user application program.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a user application program executed in a client computer, comprising the steps of:

if the user application program does not include a pointer to a file upload function, replacing an existing pointer to a file-writing function with a substitute pointer to the file upload function, wherein the file upload function carries out the following steps:

receiving a file-writing request for a file from the user application program;
determining whether it is necessary to upload the file to a predetermined server that is connected to the client computer through a network;

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if it is determined that it is necessary to upload the file to the server, uploading the file to the server; and

if it is determined that it is not necessary to upload the file to the server, writing the file in the client computer.

10-18. (Canceled)